

**From:** Kathryn Irene Capps  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 7:26pm  
**Subject:** Conerns about Microsoft monopoly

I am a software engineer working in Silicon Valley. Over the last 10 years I have worked for 4 start up companies. I'm writing to express my concern about Microsoft and the monopoly it holds in the OS market. In particular, I'm very concerned about the chill Microsoft's monopoly has placed on PC application development. I believe that this market has been stagnant for some time, because investors will not put money into a venture that might compete with Microsoft. Microsoft has squashed competitors to Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc. Microsoft's products have been sometimes better, sometimes worse, and sometimes equivalent. The point is that they did not win the market and kill all competition in these categories because they were better, they won the market because they bundled the applications with the OS that has a monopoly over the market. I see this as a clear abuse of that monopoly. Why try to create an improved spreadsheet if you can't charge a reasonable price? Why create a new application at all if you know that Microsoft can and will enter the market and undercut your price, forcing users to purchase their product when they purchase the OS? I've seen folks pitch ideas to venture capitalists and be cut down because they might compete with Microsoft. Please consider this issue carefully! Please think through the long term costs of letting Microsoft be the \*only\* company developing PC applications.

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